

CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND INFORMATION

**GRADUATION AND DROPOUT REPORT
1999-2000 School Year**

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CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND INFORMATION

REPORT ON MICHIGAN GRADUATION AND DROPOUT RATES 1999-2000 School Year

Highlights

- Seventeen percent of the districts report graduation rates at 95 percent or greater. Fifteen percent of the districts reported graduation rates at 95 percent or greater for the 1998-1999 school year.
- Sixty-two (62) high schools had dropout rates that exceeded seven percent for the 1999-2000 school year, an improvement over the prior year when 68 high schools recorded dropout rates over seven percent.
- Graduation/dropout rates for 1999-2000 are **reported by building level** as well as by district. This is the first time information has been released at the building level.

Over the past year, the data reflect that more schools are graduating a higher percent of their students at both the school district and high school building level. While encouraging, improvements need to be made to keep our students in school until completion of their high school education.

Three school districts are omitted from this report: Detroit Public Schools, Lansing Public Schools, and Litchfield Community Schools. Data submitted by these districts are under review and could not be included. The Center will release an update when we have accurate data from the Detroit, Lansing, and Litchfield districts. At that time, a statewide average graduation and dropout rate will be published. The 1999-2000 Graduation/Dropout Rate Report will become a benchmark for future reports.

The Public School Academies (PSAs) are included, but in a separate listing. There are only a few PSAs that teach the high school grades and they tend to have smaller enrollments than the public schools. Also, some of the PSAs target “at risk” students and therefore their graduation rates tend to be lower than other high schools.

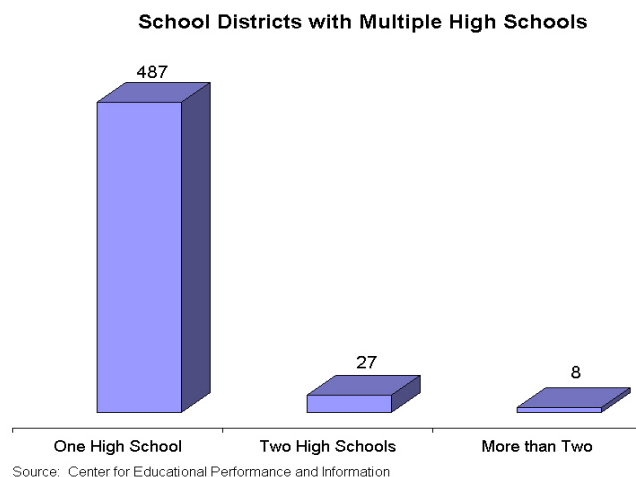
Graduation/dropout rates represent only one indicator of school performance. The School Evaluation Services Observations report published on the Web by Standard & Poor’s provide more complete information about individual school districts in Michigan (www.ses.standardandpoors.com). New information about the 1999-2000 school year will be posted on the site in December 2001.

Accurate information is critical for the Center to be able to calculate the graduation and dropout rates. In general, Michigan school districts are improving efforts to count their students and track transfers and graduates. However, some schools still report inaccurate data that results in calculated graduation rates at over 100 percent, or they fail to track transfer students, resulting in inflated dropout rates. The Center's goal is to work closely with the school districts to obtain more accurate data that will lead to more useful information for all the stakeholders in Michigan.

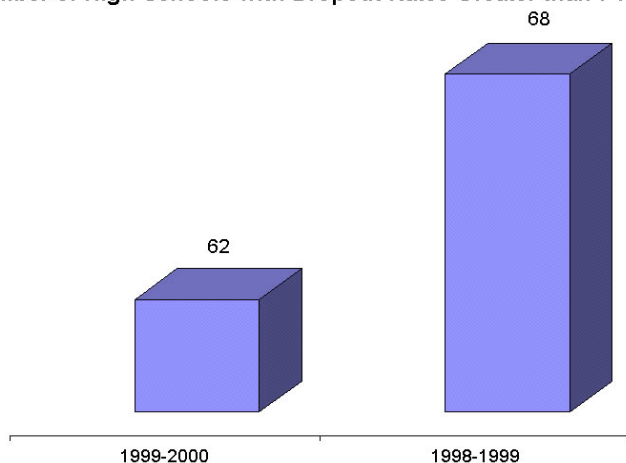
Graduation/Dropout Summary by High School Building

A total of 568 high schools were included in this report. Of the total, 29 high schools, primarily smaller rural and suburban high schools, graduated 100 percent of their students. Of the total high schools, 95 recorded graduation rates at 95 percent or above for 1999-2000. This is 17 percent of the total, compared to 15 percent for the prior year. For 1999-2000, 449 high schools graduated 80 percent or more of their students.

Smaller school districts may have only one high school, while only a few of the larger districts have multiple high schools. Districts with one high school will reflect the same graduation and dropout rates for the both the district and high school. The data excludes the Detroit Public Schools, Lansing Public Schools, and Litchfield Community Schools, or the PSAs. Detroit, Lansing, and Litchfield data are under review. A separate analysis is provided for PSAs.



Number of High Schools with Dropout Rates Greater than 7 Percent



Dropout rates by high school range from zero percent to a high of 19 percent. Twenty-nine (29) high schools reported zero dropouts. A total of 62 high schools reported dropout rates of 7 percent or greater. This compares to 68 high schools with dropout rates of 7 percent or more for the 1998-99 school year.

Graduation/Dropout Summary by School District

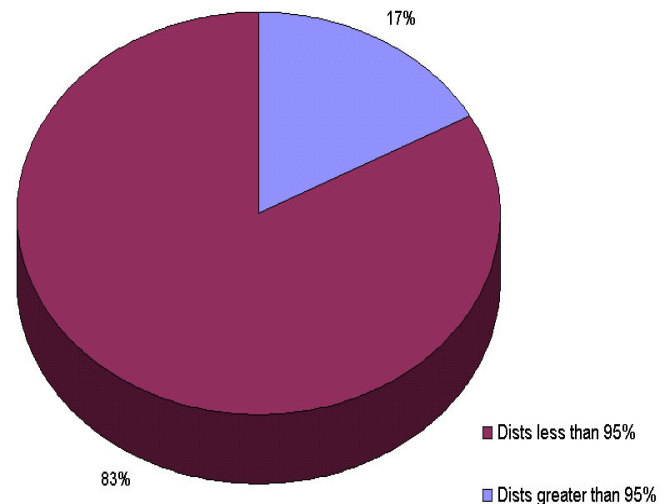
During the 1999-2000 academic year, 88 school districts, or 17 percent of the total of 521 school districts, graduated 95 percent or more of their students.

This is an increase over the prior school year (1998-1999) when 79 districts graduated 95 percent or more of their students. Note: the 1999-2000 year figures exclude Detroit Public Schools, Lansing Public Schools, Litchfield Community Schools, and the PSAs.

Of the total school districts, 414 (79 percent) graduated at least 80 percent or more of their students in 1999-2000. This compares to 389 school districts graduating at least 80 percent of their students in 1998-1999.

Dropout rates for the 1999-2000 school year ranged from zero percent to 19 percent. A total of 54 districts experienced dropout rates greater than 7 percent. Note: because some school districts cannot adequately track students who transfer to another school district, rather than dropout, the calculated dropout rates may be greater than actual. This problem may be mitigated in the future as the Michigan Education Information System (MEIS) and the Single Record Student Database (SRSD) are fully implemented.

**School Districts Graduating Greater than 95% of Students
(1999-2000 School Year)**



Source: Center for Educational Performance and Information

Graduation/Dropout Summary by Public School Academy

The computation method for graduation and dropout rates require that a high school consist of grades 9 through 12, and that the high school be in existence for at least two years. These requirements apply to both public high schools and public school academy high schools. There are only 27 PSAs in the state of Michigan that meet these requirements. Because the PSAs tend to have smaller enrollments, slight changes in the factors used to compute graduation and dropout rates can cause the rates to be easily skewed. Some of the PSAs specifically target “at risk” students and therefore they tend to have lower graduation rates and higher dropout rates.

While 9 PSAs showed graduation rates of 90 percent or greater, the remaining PSAs – 18 total – ranged from 63 percent to zero. The dropout rate for the PSAs displayed a wide range of rates from zero to over 50 percent.